

# HOUSE

éric la casa + jean-luc guionnet

[ the tipping point ]

## Protocol for a one shot recording

We chose one person who lives in each house. If a family lived there, only one member was involved. The person could be of any age.

During the recording, all the other people who live in the house were invited to stay around and to do whatever they normally do. We didn't need or ask for any specific sound quality or silence while recording.

We took time to prepare ourselves, and our equipments. Then we explained the whole process to the selected person.

During the process we stayed silent, whatever happened. As everything had to be done in real time, we all had to stick to the durations and the protocol we rehearsed. One shot is the most important rule: no stop... no return. We had to improvise with whatever came up, as we have to do it in real life.\*

We had two digital recorders with professional microphones: parts 1-3 were recorded in stereo by Eric; part 4 in mono by the person who lives in that house.

*\*each place is a point of view, a perspective on the world, all present in the being there. A difference arises however between simply being in a place and an experience of that place which goes beyond simple statement of fact. i.e. we haven't been everywhere we've been ! It might be, then, that we practice this form of art in order to assure ourselves of at least a minimal presence in the places we pass through ... and to try and share with the anonymous listener, via the artifice of the music, this hypothetical presence.*

### House 1

**Lisa**, in The Decks

recorded on Sunday 9th of May

music played : Blue Monday by New Order

### House 2

**Tim**, near Queen's Park

recorded on Monday 10th of May

music played : Baila Querida by Tango Crash

### House 3

**Zoë**, in Woodlands

recorded on Tuesday 11th of May

music played : BBC Radio 3

### House 4

**Sylvia**, in the West End

recorded on Wednesday 12th of May

music played : by Joan Baez

### **1. the favorite place : description (4 minutes)**

The person chooses their favorite place in the house.

Eric's recording starts when he says TOP.

The three of us walk slowly from the farthest room in the house to finally arrive (depending on the complexity or distance covered) at their favorite place.

During this walk, s/he describes to us as precisely as possible their favorite room, so that a listener can understand, imagine and feel that space without having to be there. They also explain how this place happened to become their favorite one in the house.

Once in this room, we all stay there and shut up!

### **2. calibration with music (6 minutes)**

At the very beginning of part 2, music s/he enjoys to listen to is played where s/he usually listen to it - through their domestic sound equipment. Sometimes this listening room is also their favorite one).

If there's no music, no radio in the house, we work with silence.

While the music is playing, Eric goes through all the rooms in the house to calibrate them by listening to the selected music as it diffuses through the whole house.

If s/he normally listen to music on headphones, or on a mobile phone, this equipment follows Eric during his itinerary.

During the calibration, the person can be silent, or sings/dances, forgets us, and lives their daily life...

At the end of this calibration, we all return to the room where music is played. Then the Eric turns off music.

### **3. Statement (1 minute)**

One minute before the tipping point.

Jean-Luc shows the person in the house a question printed on paper. They are invited to answer to it:

- Q1. If you were part of the audience, what would you think of all this?  
And how would you feel?**

#### **4. the tipping point (6 minutes)**

Jean-Luc turns on a second sound recorder.

Then Eric says TOP and turns off his own - his equipment makes a technical noise during the stop. The person now becomes the main recordist.

##### *first minute*

Jean-Luc gives his professional sound equipment to the person in the house. While holding the boom with its microphone and wearing the high quality headphones, they start to record and to experience sounds as a recordist in their own house for the first time.

##### *next five minutes*

The person comments on what they listen to through the microphones and the headphones, focusing on sound details, and interacting with their inner sound environment...

At the end of his itinerary, Jean-Luc shows them another piece of paper with two printed questions:

- Q2. Is what you hear and think different, now that you are holding the microphones and wearing the headphones?**
- Q3. What do you think the actual audience will think about what you thought they would think?**

#### **[Break]**

**Preparation of the two audio files in order to play them back to any listeners in the house.**

#### **private listening: comments**

We all listen together to the result on a HIFI stereo (provided by the festival) in the favorite listening room in the house.

During or after the listening, everyone is invited to comment on the recording. Eric records the playback of the recording and the comments while Jean-Luc takes photos...